



HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, Colorado 80527-2400

Docket No.: 10004559-1
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Robert E. Johnson et al.

Application No.: 09/845,839

Confirmation No.: 3219

Filed: April 30, 2001

Art Unit: 2161

For: **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR VALIDATION
OF STORAGE DEVICE ADDRESSES**

Examiner: F. Coby

APPEAL BRIEF

MS Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

As required under § 41.37(a), this brief is filed within two months of the Notice of Appeal filed in this case on November 21, 2005, and is in furtherance of said Notice of Appeal.

The fees required under § 41.20(b)(2) are dealt with in the accompanying TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF.

This brief contains items under the following headings as required by 37 C.F.R. § 41.37 and M.P.E.P. § 1206:

- I. Real Party In Interest
- II. Related Appeals and Interferences
- III. Status of Claims
- IV. Status of Amendments
- V. Summary of Claimed Subject Matter
- VI. Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal
- VII. Argument
- VIII. Claims

25608676.1

IX.	Evidence
X.	Related Proceedings
Appendix A	Claims
Appendix B	Evidence
Appendix C	Related Proceedings

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest for this appeal is:

Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P., a Texas Limited Partnership having its principal place of business in Houston, Texas.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no other appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this appeal.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

A. Total Number of Claims in Application

There are 30 claims pending in application.

B. Current Status of Claims

1. Claims canceled: 0
2. Claims withdrawn from consideration but not canceled: 0
3. Claims pending: 1-30
4. Claims allowed: 0
5. Claims rejected: 1-30

C. Claims On Appeal

The claims on appeal are claims 1-30

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

Appellant filed a Response to Non-Final Office Action on September 15, 2004. The Examiner rejected Appellant's arguments in the Final Office Action mailed on August 8, 2005, to which Appellant has filed this Appeal. Appellant did not file an Amendment After Final Rejection. The pending claims are enclosed herein as Appendix A.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The following provides a concise explanation of the subject matter defined in each of the independent claims involved in the appeal, referring to the specification by page and line number and to the drawings by reference characters, as required by 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(v). Each element of the claims is identified by a corresponding reference to the specification and drawings where applicable. Note that the citation to passages in the specification and drawings for each claim element does not imply that the limitations from the specification and drawings should be read into the corresponding claim element.

With regard to claim 1, the claimed subject matter is a method for validating a storage device (e.g. page 14, lines 11-14), the method comprising storing discovery information relating to a storage device (e.g. page 16, lines 21-24), querying said storage device for device identification information (e.g. page 16, lines 3-15; Figure 7, item 703), and comparing at least a portion of returned device identification information to at least a portion of said stored discovery information (e.g. page 17, lines 1-6; Figure 7, item 705).

With regard to claim 21, the claimed subject matter is a system for the validation of a storage device (e.g. page 14, lines 11-14), the system comprising means for storing discovery information for a storage device (e.g. page 16, lines 21-24), means for querying said storage device for device identification information (e.g. page 16, lines 3-15; Figure 7, item 703), and means for comparing at least a portion of device identification information received in response to said query to at least a portion of said stored discovery information (e.g. page 17, lines 1-6; Figure 7, item 705).

With regard to claim 29, the claimed subject matter is a system for the validation of at least one storage device address (e.g. page 14, lines 11-14) comprising at least one host

system, where at least one storage device is embedded in or coupled to each of the at least one host system, and where each of the at least one host system stores information relating to the at least one storage device embedded in or coupled thereto (e.g. page 14, lines 19-29; Figure 1, items 101-1-n and 102-1-n). The system also comprises at least one host agent process, where each of the at least one host agent process resides on a respective host system of the at least one host system (e.g. page 14, lines 19-29; Figure 1, items 106-1-n). Furthermore, each of the at least one host agent process is operable to query the at least one storage device embedded in or coupled to the host system on which the host agent process resides for device identification information (e.g. page 16, lines 3-15; Figure 7, item 703), as well as to compare information returned by the at least one storage device to at least a portion of discovery information stored for the at least one storage device at the host system to which the at least one storage device is coupled (e.g. page 17, lines 1-6; Figure 7, item 705).

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

Whether claims 1-8, 13-22, and 26-28 are properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *MacLeod* (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0166038).

Whether claims 9-12 and 23-25 are properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *MacLeod*.

Whether claims 29 and 30 are properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *MacLeod* in view of *Blumenau* (U.S. Patent No. 6,263,445).

VII. ARGUMENT

Appellant respectfully traverses the outstanding rejections of the pending claims, and requests that the Board reverse the outstanding rejections in light of the remarks contained herein. Below, Appellant argues many of the rejected claims separately. Thus, Appellant respectfully asserts that separately argued claims do not stand or fall together. *See* 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(vii).

A. Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over *MacLeod*

Claims 1-8, 13-22, and 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *MacLeod*. In order to anticipate a claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102, a single reference must teach each and every element of the claim. *See Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Appellant respectfully submits that *MacLeod* fails to teach each and every element of claims 1-8, 13-22, and 26-28, and respectfully requests that this rejection be overturned.

1. Claims 1-8 and 13-20

Claim 1 requires, in part “querying said storage device for device identification information” The Examiner contends that paragraph [0027] of *MacLeod* meets the claimed limitation. Final Office Action, page 3. Appellant notes that the cited reference teaches storing “tag bits” in a cache memory for validating an address—i.e., to “corroborate[] that a logical address is a valid address” *MacLeod*, paragraphs [0026] and [0027]. According to *MacLeod*, “tag bits” are identifying fields constructed from a portion of the logical address of a peripheral device. *MacLeod*, paragraph [0027].

Appellant has asserted that “the tag bits of *MacLeod* do not correspond to the claimed device identification information, as the tag bits are not related to device identification information.” Office Action Response, page 8 (filed on September 15, 2004). In other words, a logical address is not the same as the claimed device identification information. *See e.g.*, Present Specification, page 16, lines 3-12. That is, merely acquiring a portion of a device’s logical address is not the same limitation as acquiring the claimed device identification information. For example, Appellant points out that a device’s logical address changes after re-mapping, while the device’s identification information does not. *See e.g.*, Present Specification, page 3, lines 10-29; page 16, lines 3-12.

In response, the Examiner has stated that because *MacLeod*’s “tag bits” constitute an “identifying field,” they meet the claimed device identification information. Final Office Action, page 10. However, as noted above, *MacLeod*’s “tag bits” or “identifying fields” only identify an address for a particular device, whereas the claimed device identification

information identifies the device itself. Therefore, the “tag bits” of *MacLeod* do not meet the claimed device identification information.

Appellant has been unable to find any passage of *MacLeod* that teaches or suggests the querying of a storage device for device identification information, nor has the Examiner shown otherwise. Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by *MacLeod* because *MacLeod* fails to teach at least this element of claim 1. As such, Appellant respectfully requests that this rejection of claim 1 be overturned.

Dependent claims 2-8 and 13-20 depend directly or indirectly from base claim 1 and thereby inherit all of the limitations of that base claim. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims 2-8 and 13-20 are patentable at least because of their dependency from independent claim 1 for the reasons discussed above.

2. Claims 21, 22, and 26-28

Claim 21 requires, in part “means for querying said storage device for device identification information” The Examiner contends that paragraph [0027] of *MacLeod* meets the claimed limitation. Final Office Action, page 3. Appellant notes that the cited reference teaches storing “tag bits” in a cache memory for validating an address—i.e., to “corroborate[] that a logical address is a valid address” *MacLeod*, paragraphs [0026] and [0027]. According to *MacLeod*, “tag bits” are identifying fields constructed from a portion of the logical address of a peripheral device. *MacLeod*, paragraph [0027].

Appellant has asserted that “the tag bits of *MacLeod* do not correspond to the claimed device identification information, as the tag bits are not related to device identification information.” Office Action Response, page 8 (filed on September 15, 2004). In other words, a logical address is not the same as the claimed device identification information. *See e.g.*, Present Specification, page 16, lines 3-12. That is, merely acquiring a portion of a device’s logical address is not the same limitation as acquiring the claimed device identification information. For example, Appellant points out that a device’s logical address changes after re-mapping, while the device’s identification information does not. *See e.g.*, Present Specification, page 3, lines 10-29; page 16, lines 3-12.

In response, the Examiner has stated that because *MacLeod*'s "tag bits" constitute an "identifying field," they meet the claimed device identification information. Final Office Action, page 10. However, as noted above, *MacLeod*'s "tag bits" or "identifying fields" only identify an address for a particular device, whereas the claimed device identification information identifies the device itself. Therefore, the "tag bits" of *MacLeod* do not meet the claimed device identification information.

Appellant has been unable to find any passage of *MacLeod* that teaches or suggests the querying of a storage device for device identification information, nor has the Examiner shown otherwise. Therefore, claim 21 is not anticipated by *MacLeod* because *MacLeod* fails to teach at least this element of claim 21. As such, Appellant respectfully requests that this rejection of claim 21 be overturned.

Dependent claims 22 and 26-28 depend directly or indirectly from base claim 21 and thereby inherit all of the limitations of that base claim. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims 22 and 26-28 are patentable at least because of their dependency from independent claim 21 for the reasons discussed above.

B. Claim rejections under § 103 over *MacLeod*

The Examiner rejected claims 9-12 and 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over *MacLeod*. Appellant respectfully traverses this rejection and asserts that the rejected claims are allowable at least for the reasons stated below.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art cited must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991). Appellant asserts that the rejection does not satisfy the basic criteria.

1. Failure to teach or suggest all claim limitations

Dependent claims 9-12 and 23-25 depend indirectly from base claims 1 and 21 respectively, and thus inherit all limitations of their respective base claims. Base claims 1 and 21 are patentable due to the deficiencies of *MacLeod* as discussed above, and the Examiner's assertion of obviousness is not relied upon as curing these deficiencies. Therefore, *MacLeod* and the Examiner's assertion of obviousness fails to teach all the elements of claims 9-12 and 23-25. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 9-12 and 23-25 are patentable over the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of record at least because of their dependency from independent claims 1 and 21 for the reasons discussed above.

2. Improper motivation

Appellant also asserts that claims 9-12 and 23-25 are patentable because the motivation put forth by the Examiner is improper. Final Office Action, page 8. Specifically, the Examiner has stated that:

[o]ne of ordinary skill in the ad [sic] at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to substitute the address information stored in the storage device with claimed address information. The motivation being to have enhanced the versatility of the caching mechanism of *MacLeod* by allowing it to more efficiently validate storage devices and provide a level of fault tolerance', [sic] thus, providing an [sic] determining claimed address information for storage devices', [sic] and comparing the determined claimed address information to the stored claimed address information. *Id.*

However, there is no indication of a need for an "enhanced the versatility of the caching mechanism" in *MacLeod*. The mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of the combination. *In re Mills*, 916 F.2d 680 (Fed. Cir. 1990). Moreover, the language of the recited motivation merely states that it is obvious to make the modification because it is obvious to achieve the result. Such language is only a statement that the reference can be modified.

Furthermore, even if the proposed modification of *MacLeod* taught or suggested all aspects of the claimed invention, a *prima facie* case of obviousness would not have been established because the Examiner has not provided an objective reason to combine the teachings of the references. The motivation put forth by the Office Action—i.e., “to enhance the versatility of the mechanism,” is a general incentive, and not an objective reason to combine the references. Appellant points out that “[a] general incentive does not make obvious a particular result, nor does the existence of techniques by which those efforts can be carried out.” *In re Deuel*, 51 F. 3d 1552, 1559 (Fed. Cir. 1995). Therefore, the motivation for the modification of *MacLeod* is improper. Accordingly, Appellant respectfully requests that this rejection of claims 9-12 and 23-25 be overturned.

C. Claim rejections under § 103 over *MacLeod* in view of *Blumenau*

The Examiner rejected claims 29 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over *MacLeod* in view of *Blumenau*. Appellant respectfully traverses this rejection and asserts that the rejected claims are allowable at least for the reasons stated below.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art cited must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991). Appellant asserts that the rejection does not satisfy the basic criteria.

1. Failure to teach or suggest all claim limitations

Claim 29 recites, in part, “at least one host agent process . . . resid[ing] on a respective host system” The Examiner has admitted that *MacLeod* does not teach or suggest this limitation, and relies upon *Blumenau*’s “filter” as meeting the claimed limitation. Final Office Action, page 9. Particularly, the Examiner states that “*Blumenau* provides a computer

system having at least one host agent including a validation mechanism.” *Id.* However, at the passage cited by the Examiner, *Blumenau* discloses:

[a] data management technique for managing accesses to data at a shared storage system includes a filter **at the storage system**. The filter is coupled to a configuration table, which identifies which of a number of coupled host processors have accesses to each of the resources at the device. During operation, requests received from the host devices are filtered by the filter, and only those requests to resources that the individual host devices have privilege to access are serviced. Advantageously, data security is further enhanced by authenticating each of the requests received by the storage system to verify that the host processor that is represented as forwarding the request is the indicated host processor. In addition, transfers of data between the storage system and the host processor may be validated to ensure that data was not corrupted during the data transfer. *Blumenau*, Abstract; Figures 3 and 6 (emphasis added).

In other words, the reference teaches a filter that resides in a storage system, not in a host system, as claimed. *See Blumenau*, Figure 3, item 320. Moreover, Appellant has been unable to find any passage of *Blumenau* that teaches or suggests that its filter “is operable to query said at least one storage device embedded in or coupled to said host system on which said [filter] resides for device identification information, as well as to compare information returned by said at least one storage device to at least a portion of discovery information stored for said at least one storage device at said host system to which said at least one storage device is coupled . . . ,” nor has the Examiner shown otherwise. Accordingly, Appellant respectfully requests that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 29 be overturned.

Claim 29 also recites, in part, that “each of said at least one host agent process is operable to query said at least one storage device embedded in or coupled to said host system on which said host agent process resides for device identification information” In rejecting claim 29, the Examiner relies on the rejections made with respect to claims 1 and 21. Final Office Action, page 9. However, as discussed above, with respect to claims 1 and 21, the *MacLeod*’s “tag bits” do not correspond to the claimed device identification information. Furthermore, *Blumenau* is not relied upon as disclosing these limitations. *Id.*

Thus, *Blumenau* fails to cure the deficiencies of *MacLeod*. As such, the combination of *MacLeod* and *Blumenau* fails to teach all the elements of claim 29. Accordingly, Appellant respectfully requests that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 29 be overturned.

Claim 30 depends directly from the respective base claim 29 and thereby inherits all of the limitations of the respective base claim. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that dependent claim 30 is patentable over the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection based on *MacLeod* in view of *Blumenau*.

2. Improper Motivation

Appellant also asserts that claims 29 and 30 are patentable because the motivation for the modification proposed by the Examiner is improper. Final Office Action, page 9. Specifically, the Examiner has stated that:

[i]t would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the ad [sic] at the time of the invention to modify the data management storage system of *MacLeod* by placing it in the network environment provided by *Blumenau*. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated to do so because that would have ensured that data was not corrupted during the data transfer. *Id.*

First, Appellant points out that *MacLeod* does not disclose a “data management storage system,” as stated by the Examiner. Instead, *MacLeod* teaches translating and validating a logical address to a physical address within a computer. *MacLeod*, paragraph [0001]. Further, *Blumenau* teaches a technique for managing data transfers between a computer and a shared storage system over a network. *MacLeod*, Abstract. As such, Appellant asserts that placing *MacLeod*’s computer in *Blumenau*’s network environment would not ensure that data is not corrupted during a data transfer over a network, as proposed by the Examiner.

Moreover, there is no indication of a need for *Blumenau*’s data transfer management system in *MacLeod*. Conversely, there is no indication of a need for *MacLeod*’s virtual address translation and validation in *Blumenau*. The mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of the combination. *In re Mills*, 916 F.2d 680 (Fed. Cir. 1990),

cited in M.P.E.P. § 2143.01. Neither the prior art nor the knowledge available to a person of ordinary skill in the art suggest the desirability of the combination, and Appellant asserts that there is no suggestion or motivation to combine *MacLeod* with *Blumenau*. Accordingly, Appellant respectfully requests that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 9-12 and 23-25 be overturned.

VIII. CLAIMS

A copy of the claims involved in the present appeal is attached hereto as Appendix A. As indicated above, the claims in Appendix A do include the amendments filed by Appellant on August 23, 2005.

IX. EVIDENCE

No evidence pursuant to §§ 1.130, 1.131, or 1.132 or entered by or relied upon by the examiner is being submitted.

X. RELATED PROCEEDINGS

No related proceedings are referenced in II. above, or copies of decisions in related proceedings are not provided, hence no Appendix is included.

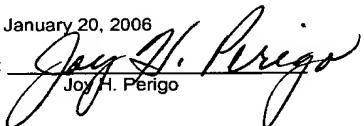
Dated: January 20, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

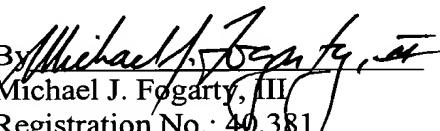
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV482725353US, in an envelope addressed to: MS Appeal Brief - Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: January 20, 2006

Signature:



Joy H. Perigo

By 
Michael J. Fogarty, III
Registration No.: 40,381
Attorney for Appellant

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APPENDIX A

Claims Involved in the Appeal of Application Serial No. 09/845,839

1. (Original) A method for validating a storage device, the method comprising:
storing discovery information relating to a storage device;
querying said storage device for device identification information; and
comparing at least a portion of returned device identification information to at least a portion of said stored discovery information.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said at least a portion of said stored discovery information includes device and host bus adapter information.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said stored discovery information is obtained through at least one small computer system interface (SCSI) inquiry.
4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said stored discovery information is obtained through at least one element selected from the group consisting of:
at least one system file;
at least one system registry; and
combinations thereof.
5. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said stored discovery information is obtained through at least one element selected from the group consisting of:
operating system kernel application programming interface call;
host bus adapter device driver library application programming interface; and
some combination thereof.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said at least a portion of said returned device identification information includes Product ID, Vendor ID, and Product Revision information.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said returned device identification information includes standard device inquiry information.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said stored discovery information includes device address information.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein said device address information includes claimed address information; and wherein said method further comprises:

 determining claimed address information for said storage device; and

 comparing said determined claimed address information to said stored claimed address information.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein said method further comprises: flagging said stored discovery information if said determined claimed address information does not match said stored claimed address information.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein said stored discovery information further includes serial number information for said storage device, and wherein said method further comprises:

 querying said storage device for serial number information for said device; and

 comparing said serial number information received in response to said serial number information query to said stored serial number information.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein said method further comprises: querying said storage device for serial number information for said device; and accepting said stored device address information as valid if an error is returned in response to said query.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said querying includes at least one small computer system interface (SCSI) inquiry.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said method further includes flagging said stored discovery information if said at least a portion of said returned information does not match said at least a portion of said stored discovery information.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein said method further comprises: deleting or updating said stored discovery information if said stored discovery information is flagged.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said storing discovery information includes storing discovery information on a host system and a storage management system; and wherein said deleting or updating said stored discovery information includes deleting or updating said discovery information stored at said host system and at said storage management system.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein said deleting or updating said stored discovery information stored at said host system further comprises:

transmitting an event to said storage management system requesting said storage management system to delete or update said discovery information stored at said storage management system.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said method further comprises: storing said returned information as a new device.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein said method further comprises: communicating an event requesting the addition of said returned information or an update of previous information using said returned information.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein said method further comprises: preventing communication between a storage management system and said device during said storing said returned information as a new device.

21. (Original) A system for the validation of a storage device, said system comprising:

means for storing discovery information for a storage device;
means for querying said storage device for device identification information; and
means for comparing at least a portion of device identification information received in response to said query to at least a portion of said stored discovery information.

22. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein said discovery information includes device address information.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein said device address information includes claimed address information for said storage device; and wherein said system further comprises:

means for determining claimed address information for said device;

means for comparing said determined claimed address information to said stored claimed address information; and

means for flagging said stored discovery information if said determined claimed address information does not match said stored claimed address information.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23 wherein said discovery information further includes serial number information for said storage device, and wherein said system further comprises:

means for querying said storage device for serial number information for said storage device;

means for comparing said serial number information received in response to said serial number information query to said stored serial number information; and

means for flagging said stored discovery information if said received serial number information does not match said stored serial number information.

25. (Original) The system of claim 23 wherein said system further comprises:

means for querying said storage device for serial number information for said device; and

means for accepting said stored device address information as valid if an error is returned in response to said query for serial number information.

26. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein said system further comprises:

means for flagging said stored discovery information if said at least a portion of said received information does not match said at least a portion of said stored discovery information.

27. (Original) The system of claim 26 wherein said system further comprises: means for deleting or updating said stored discovery information if said stored discovery information is flagged.

28. (Original) The system of claim 27 wherein said system further comprises: means for preventing communication between a storage management system and said storage device when said stored discovery information is being deleted or updated.

29. (Original) A system for the validation of at least one storage device address comprising:

at least one host system, wherein at least one storage device is embedded in or coupled to each of said at least one host system; and wherein each of said at least one host system stores information relating to said at least one storage device embedded in or coupled thereto; and

at least one host agent process, wherein each of said at least one host agent process resides on a respective host system of said at least one host system;

wherein each of said at least one host agent process is operable to query said at least one storage device embedded in or coupled to said host system on which said host agent process resides for device identification information, as well as to compare information returned by said at least one storage device to at least a portion of discovery information stored for said at least one storage device at said host system to which said at least one storage device is coupled.

30. (Original) The system of claim 29 wherein said at least one host agent process queries said at least one storage device during system start up or doing a discovery polling period.

APPENDIX B

Evidence: None

APPENDIX C

Related Proceedings: None



HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, Colorado 80527-2400

PATENT APPLICATION

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 10004559-1

IN THE

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Robert E. Johnson et al.

Confirmation No.: 3219

Application No.: 09/845,839

Examiner: F. Coby

Filing Date: April 30, 2001

Group Art Unit: 2161

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR VALIDATION OF STORAGE DEVICE ADDRESSES

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner For Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF

Transmitted herewith is the Appeal Brief in this application with respect to the Notice of Appeal filed on November 21, 2005.

The fee for filing this Appeal Brief is (37 CFR 1.17(c)) \$500.00.

(complete (a) or (b) as applicable)

The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) apply.

(a) Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 (fees: 37 CFR 1.17(a)-(d)) for the total number of months checked below:

1st Month
\$120

2nd Month
\$450

3rd Month
\$1020

4th Month
\$1590

The extension fee has already been filed in this application.

(b) Applicant believes that no extension of time is required. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition and fee for extension of time.

Please charge to Deposit Account 08-2025 the sum of \$ 500. At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any over payment to Deposit Account 08-2025 pursuant to 37 CFR 1.25. Additionally please charge any fees to Deposit Account 08-2025 under 37 CFR 1.16 through 1.21 inclusive, and any other sections in Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations that may regulate fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, Label No. EV 482725353US addressed to: Appeal Brief – Patents, Commissione for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
Date of Deposit: January 20, 2006

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I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office facsimile number (571)273-8300.

Date of facsimile:

Typed Name: Joy H. Perigo

Signature: Joy H. Perigo

Respectfully submitted,

Robert E. Johnson et al.

By Michael J. Fogarty, III

Michael J. Fogarty, III

Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)

Reg No.: 42,541

Date: January 20, 2006

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